

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following prior to the paragraph that begins at page 1, line 4:

The present rule is a group of five patent application having the same priority date. Application PCT/SG02/000211 relates to a switch having an ingress port which is configurable to act either as eight FE (fast Ethernet) ports or as a GE (gigabit Ethernet port). Application PCT/SG02/000210 relates to a parser suitable for use in such as switch. Application PCT/SG02/000207 relates to a flow engine suitable for using the output of the parser to make a comparison with rules. Application PCT/SG02/000209 relates to monitoring bandwidth consumption using the results of a comparison of rules with packets. Application PCT/SG02/000213 relates to a combination of switches arranged as a stack. The respective subjects of the each of the group of applications other than in combination with the technology described in the other four application, but the disclosure of the other applications of the group is incorporated by reference.

Please delete the paragraph that starts at page 1, line 4 which begins with the words "The present rule is a group of five patents".